

AGENDA ITEM: Regional Library Network Development**BACKGROUND AND SUMMARY:**

The Library of California Act describes Regional Library Networks which, together, cover the state and constitute the Library of California. The general composition and services of the Regional Library Networks are described in Article 5 (18840-18849). Within the initial appropriation of \$5 million, “regional library network development” is identified as one of the five funding areas (Article 8, Sec. 2).

The Library of California Board is responsible for establishing Regional Library Networks and approving the plan for each Regional Library Network (Article 3, 18821). The plan shall include an organizational structure, bylaws, membership policies, a long-range plan, the endorsement of the charter members and geographical contiguity (Article 5, 18840).

The Library of California document outlines a planning process for the Regional Library Networks (pages 66-69). It includes the development of Regional Planning Groups and discusses the appointment process and their responsibilities. A two-tiered planning process was envisioned, allowing for changes in network boundaries as a result of the planning process.

At the January 26, 1999 Library of California Board meeting the Board approved the provision of planning grants for the Regional Planning Groups and asked for a budget recommendation to be returned to it at its February 1999 meeting. The Board also approved the establishment of six planning regions.

At the February 24, 1999 Library of California Board meeting the Board authorized the expenditure of \$550,000 for planning grants for the Regional Planning Groups, as well as an allocation criteria for those grants. The Board also approved the establishment of two additional planning regions, bringing the total of planning regions to eight.

At the April 28, 1999 Library of California Board meeting the Board approved the currently established eight planning regions as the final Planning Regions for Regional Library Network development.

The Planning Grant applications were provided to the planning groups at the workshop on April 12-13, 1999 and were due back by May 31, 1999. All eight applications were received by May 28, 1999. The grant award packages were reviewed by staff by June 4,

1999 and submitted to the Budget Office on that date. The fiscal agents for each Planning Region have received their grant checks.

GENERAL OVERALL PROGRAM UPDATE:

Staff have been attending meetings of the Planning Groups over the past two months in order to ensure a successful planning process and to review any questions about the grant awards. Staff have attended meetings in Regions I, III, IV, VII, and VIII and will be attending meetings in Regions II, V and VI in September. In general, all the planning groups are beginning to look at issues of identifying and attracting new libraries, how to form the legal structure of the new network and discussing development of service programs.

On August 2, 1999 a meeting was held at the State Library with representatives of Planning Groups and staff to review options for legal forms of organization. Attorneys from the Sacramento law firm of McDonough, Holland and Allen attended the meeting, did a short presentation of organizational forms and gathered input from attendees on the issues they are identifying for the new networks. McDonough, Holland and Allen will be developing a white paper on legal forms of organization for the Planning Groups that will be completed by October 1999.

The Institute for the Future has begun work on a study for the Planning Groups that will provide them with updated demographic information on each of their regions. In addition, they will be providing case studies of other information organizations that have developed new forms of organization and service programs that will be of interest to the groups as they look at creating their own organizations and service programs.

The Planning Groups will be required to file quarterly grant reports with the first report due by October 31, 1999. Updates on the progress of Regional Library Network development will be provided to the Board based on these reports, with the first update provided at the Board meeting in November 1999.

1999 TIMELINE FOR REGIONAL PLANNING GRANTS

DATE	ACTIVITY
May	Planning grant applications received
June	Planning grants awarded
October 31	First quarter (July – Sept) planning grant report due
January 31, 2000	Second quarter (Oct – Dec) planning grant report due

RELATED ISSUES TO COME BEFORE THE BOARD IN THE FUTURE:

1. Monitor the progress of Regional Library Network development, taking action as necessary.
2. Consider additional planning grants.

Relevant Committee: Support Services

Staff Liaison: Anne Marie Gold